

## The Sun

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1882.

## Amusements To-Day.

**Abbey Park Theatre**—Dinner.  
**Bijou Opera House**—Hercules.  
**South's Theatre**—The Lioness.  
**Union Square Theatre**—The Lioness.  
**Chickering Hall**—Gaiety.  
**Italy's Theatre**—Gaiety.  
**Grand Opera House**—The Lioness.  
**Union Square Theatre**—The Lioness.  
**Italy's Theatre**—Gaiety.  
**Grand Opera House**—The Lioness.  
**Union Square Theatre**—The Lioness.  
**Italy's Theatre**—Gaiety.

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 Large type or extra (space measurement) per line, 75 cts.  
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 Special Notices, after marriage and death, per line, 75 cts.  
 Reading and Financial, after marriage and death, per line, 75 cts.  
 Reading Notices, with "Adv." 1st of 20 pages, per line, 75 cts.  
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 Weekly, 6 pages, \$1.00 per year, postpaid.  
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**Advertisements for THE WEEKLY SUN, issued to-morrow morning, must be handed in this evening before six o'clock.**

## SHALL THE REPUBLIC BE PRESERVED?

Mr. Tilden's Letter to the Jefferson Club of New Haven.

GROTON, March 30, 1882.

GENTLEMEN: I have received your letter in behalf of the Jefferson Club of New Haven, inviting me to be present at their commemoration of the birth of Thomas Jefferson. Although I am obliged to deny myself the pleasure of meeting with you on that occasion, I share the feelings which bring you together.

Mr. Jefferson has many titles to the reverence of the American people and of all lovers of liberty throughout the world. He was among the earliest, most resolute, and most steadfast of the patriots who upheld the popular rights in the incipient struggles of our Revolution, when the part he took required a higher order of courage, of self-denial, and of genius than were necessary at any subsequent period of our history. He penned the immortal statement of the principles that led our ancestors to assert the independent existence of our country, and which have been substantially adopted as a model for every people who have since attempted to establish national independence on the basis of human rights.

He was first in his day to completely emancipate his own mind from the monarchial and aristocratic traditions which still enslaved most of the best intellects of the country.

But the obligations of the world to Mr. Jefferson do not end here. On the completion of the Federal Constitution, Governor Morris, being asked what he thought of it, answered: "That depends upon how it is construed." After the organization of the Federal Government, a powerful class sought to impress upon its practical working the similitude of the British system. Mr. Jefferson was the great leader of the party formed to resist these efforts, and to hold our institutions to the popular character which was understood to belong to them when the Constitution was ratified by the people.

By his inflexible adherence to free principles, by his untiring efforts, by his counsels, and by the magic of his pen, he was the principal agent in rescuing from its greatest peril, and while yet in its infancy, government by the people for the people.

The arduous contest resulted in a political revolution which brought Mr. Jefferson into the Presidency. He put the ship of State, to use his own expression, upon the "republican tack." He arrested centralizing tendencies, reinvigorated local self-government, restored the rights of the States, and protected and enlarged the domain of the individual judgment and conscience. For eight years he administered the Government, and for sixteen years it was administered by his pupils under his observation and advice. Thus was established a habit which largely shaped the standards for the guidance of the popular judgment, the modes of thinking of statesmen, and the general course of government for sixty years. How important such a habit is will be appreciated when we consider that usurpation has often been successfully accomplished in other countries by men wielding the executive power; and when we are reminded that Jefferson sincerely feared that Hamilton, who thought our Government a "fraud and worthless fabric," would change it if he came into power; and when we also recall the fact that Hamilton himself has left on record his belief that Burr would have wrought a personal usurpation if he could have grasped the Presidency.

Mr. Jefferson gave to our administrative system an aspect of republican simplicity; he repressed jockey as well as all pervasions of power, and by his precepts, his influence, and his example, elevated the standard of political morals. In his personal practice he was not only pure, but, to make his example more effective, he refrained, while administering the greatest of official trusts, from all attempts to increase his own fortune, even by methods open to every private citizen.

In a period when there seems to be little respect for the limitations of power prescribed by our written Constitution; when assumptions of ungranted authority are rife in all the departments of the Federal Government; when that Government is being gradually changed into an elective despotism, meddling in everything belonging to the State or to individuals; when every new assumption of ungranted power creates new opportunities, new facilities, and new incentives to favoritism and jobbery; when the civil service has been converted into a balance of power to determine the elections by pecuniary and other illegitimate influences; when the perversion of high trusts to the private gain of the official is frequently committed with apparent unconsciousness of wrong, and when almost without rebuke, it is time that the teachings and the example of Thomas

Jefferson be invoked to keep alive the glimmering spark of official virtue and public honor. Your fellow citizen.

SAMUEL J. TILDEN.

Messrs. C. B. DOWERS, JAMES E. ENGLISH, JOHN H. LEEDS, PHILIP POND, and A. HEATON BROWN, Committee.

## The Soldiers' Home.

The disclosures made by Gen. S. D. STURGIS, the new Governor of the Soldiers' Home near Washington, show a strange condition of things in that institution. The Senate Committee of Military Affairs has been for some time engaged in investigating its management, added by Gen. STURGIS, who was appointed to its charge a year ago, and took actual command in July last.

The Soldiers' Home is designed for aged and infirm enlisted men of the regular army. Unlike most national institutions of this character, it is not maintained by Congressional appropriations, but by the monthly pay of each non-commissioned officer, artificer, and private of the army. A dollar and a half a year may not be much for the soldier to give for the assurance of a home in his old age; but the fund becomes a large one when applied to every enlisted man in the service. Since few soldiers live to take the benefit of the Home, under its conditions, and even some of these prefer ending their lives among their kindred, they can all at least demand that funds raised by docking their slender pay should be enjoyed by their comrades at the Home, and that whatever is laid out on the buildings, grounds, and gardens shall be for their use alone.

As a fact, the Senate committee finds that a large part of the expenditures of the Home have had little relation to the disabled veterans. "Money," says Gen. STURGIS, "seems to have been dealt out in all directions except that leading to the immediate benefit of the individual inmates." The main idea of the managers seems to be to create and maintain a beautiful park for fashionable people to frequent, rather than to increase the recreations of the old soldiers. There is no bowling alley and no billiard room for light exercise, says Gen. STURGIS, nor any hall for debating, lectures, and similar purposes. Yet over \$300,000 have already been expended in enlarging and decorating the grounds, and the Government has been obliged to pay for the maintenance of about eight hundred acres, for a few hundred infirm men. The sum of \$225,000 was expended in adding the Concordia property; over \$50,000 in stone walls and iron railings on two sides; over \$119,000 in roads and drives; over \$170,000 in a so-called library building, which will one day furnish billiards, bowling, and other amusements if it ever recovers from its now unfinished condition; over \$23,000 on "Lake Mary Barnes" and the adjoining bridges. The reason assigned for the expensive adornments of the last thirty years is that "the inmates derive amusement from the people and carriages from the city that frequent the drives." While this is no doubt true, it does not justify any such outlay. No money should be spent there except for the immediate benefit of the inmates. If lavish expenditures are to be made for the general public, the money should not be filched from the pockets of private soldiers.

Gen. STURGIS makes another complaint that is not without importance. He found, on assuming the Governorship, that the management was vested in three army officers, as a Board of Commissioners, namely, Surgeon-General BARNES, Commissary-General MACFEELEY, and Adjutant-General DRUM. It is to the two former, Gen. BARNES and Gen. MACFEELEY, that Gen. STURGIS is well understood to refer in the following response to inquiries of the Senate committee:

"I am constrained to say frankly, but reluctantly, that some of the things which can hardly be kept out of the State of affairs. For example, the choicest products of the vegetable and fruit gardens are regularly delivered three times a week to two members of the Board of Commissioners at their residences in the city. Considerable numbers of the products of the dairy are delivered daily to one member of the Board at his residence in the city. To be sure, this officer has several cows of his own in the herd, but they are fed with the same milk as the cows of the State. While these things may appear trivial and unimportant to some, yet they derive a certain importance from the fact that they furnish material for the scandalous charges made from time to time against the Home management."

The conservatory and flower garden, which are maintained at an annual cost of from \$5,000 to \$10,000, are so far as my observation and information permit, well managed. In the house of the two members of the Board of Commissioners, at whose residences in the city the choicest flowers are delivered at stated regular times. On special occasions regular supplies are ordered. So far as I have been able to learn, no flowers are ever distributed to the inmates of the Home or the hospital. The floral informers are that he sometimes allows officers of the army to take away as many flowers as they like, but that the flowers which can be spared. He means when the Commissioners shall have been first served."

Gen. STURGIS finds other queer customs. He discovers that members of the family of one Commissioner order mechanics from their legitimate work to make repairs in public buildings, and even "make large purchases, amounting to hundreds of dollars, of material not necessary to the Home," without the Governor's knowledge or sanction, depending on a subsequent justification by the Commissioners. These latter do not seem to do much in return for their perquisites, since Gen. STURGIS found that for even so simple a matter as writing for and receiving money of deceased soldiers deposited in banks and accruing to the Home, they had employed the son of the late Treasurer, on this contract, drawn by himself:

"All accidental expenses are to be first deducted from the gross amount of the recovery, and the balance is to be paid to the family of the deceased."

The practice of inviting the families of the White House to the Soldiers' Home, as a cheap form of summering, is too well known to require comment, but the Senate committee is understood to be inquiring into the purchases of costly furniture, table linen, china, and other articles made on such occasions.

Considering that it is the troops, the enlisted men, in whose cheerless barracks and camps even old lamps were an unheard-of luxury until last year, who are compelled through a perversion of law to support these luxurious orchards and greenhouses and parks for the benefit of Washington society people, the Soldiers' Home inquiry has not come too soon.

## The Growing Death Rate.

The statistics of the death rate in New York city for the year 1881 will attract the attention of every one. For the year ending Dec. 31, 1881, the death rate was 26.48 per thousand inhabitants. For the year ending Dec. 31, 1880, it rose to 31.08 per thousand. The death rate for London for 1881 was 22.14, and that of twenty other towns of Great Britain was 22.7. This London, with all its mass of people crowded together in hovels and cellars in such poverty and filth as can be scarcely seen elsewhere, showed a smaller death rate than the cities throughout the kingdom. On the other hand, against the death rate of 26.48 in New York for 1881, the rates of forty-eight other cities of the United States show an average of 20.8. Only six cities had a larger death rate than New

York, and these were Fall River (Mass.), Richmond, Seaside (Ala.), Savannah, Charleston, and Memphis—all Southern towns but one.

But the rise of the death rate to 31.08 per thousand is not the only startling fact. In 1881 there were 38,424 deaths and 26,130 births; a difference of 12,294 in favor of the death list. This preponderance of deaths over births has been maintained during the first part of 1882. In January of this year there were 3,408 deaths and 2,278 births; in February, 3,298 deaths and 2,022 births. In 1880 the total deaths in London were 81,128, against 132,173 births.

In view of these facts, is not this theme worthy a closer study than the Legislature, the municipal authorities, and the medical profession have hitherto given it?

## England's Opium Iniquity.

The agitation now going on in Great Britain for the suppression of the opium traffic with China recalls, by its vehemence and the nature of the arguments on both sides, the agitation of several years ago for the abolition of the slave trade. The English newspapers and periodicals have for months given much space to the controversy; a great society has been organized to obtain the prohibition of the opium commerce; Parliament has been repeatedly memorialized to that end; and monster meetings have been held in London and Manchester, like those over which WILDERFORCE presided during the slave-trade agitation. That the anti-opiumists will triumph in the end we doubt not, because their cause is right; but it is interesting to note the specious arguments advanced on the other side, and which may for a time defer legislative action.

The case for the opium traffic is that it may be very beneficial to the country. For upward of half a century opium has been cultivated on a large and rapidly increasing scale in British India for export to China. The production of the drug is now a Government monopoly, and during the last twenty years the net proceeds from its sale have brought into the Indian Treasury the immense sum of \$672,300,000. In the last fiscal year alone the receipts from the opium trade were \$42,330,000, or more than one-sixth of the total net revenue of British India. It is clear, therefore, that the Indian Government is financially interested in the perpetuation of the traffic, and directly responsible for a large part of the evils which it brings upon the Chinese people. It is equally undeniable that the British Government has been the first to resist the importation of the drug into its dominions; that the first war between Great Britain and China (1839) was undertaken because the Canton authorities tried to prevent opium smuggling from Hong Kong; and that the second war, though ostensibly waged for another cause, culminated in the treaty of Tientsin, by which, in compliance with British exactions, the Chinese Government consented to legalize the importation of opium. On its face the ground for the present agitation seems as strong as it well could be. The charge is that Great Britain is dishonored, that her professions of enlightenment are held up to the world's scorn, by the huge gains reaped from a traffic which panders the morbid appetites of luxury, and which has been forced by violence on a reluctant people.

The arguments with which the champions of the opium traffic endeavor to meet their assailants resemble curiously, in their shifty, disingenuous tenor and their appeal to the meanest motives, those advanced against WILDERFORCE and the advocates of the abolition of the slave trade. England, they say, did not begin the export of opium to China; it was the Portuguese. To this it may be rejoined that neither did England begin the importation of black slaves into the American continent, but she recognized in 1807 the necessity of freeing her hands from any share of the foul stain. Again, it is maintained that even should England with draw from the market, Persia, Asiatic Turkey, and other opium-producing countries would continue to supply the demand which has been engendered in China. That is just what was said to WILDERFORCE, and his answer was that England was answerable for her own crimes, not for the past or future transgressions of Spain and Portugal. Moreover, China has no cause to fear the importation of opium from countries which, unlike England, are unable or unwilling to dictate the admission of the drug at the cannon's mouth. But say the advocates of the traffic, if not an ounce were imported the Chinese would still smoke opium, for they can grow it at home. This, too, is one of the pleas brought forward against the suppression of the slave trade, for slavery, it was urged, existed everywhere in Africa, and to transport its victims across the Atlantic meant nothing but a change of masters.

In this case, we were further told that the Chinese Government would encourage or connive at the cultivation of the drug, just as the local authorities corruptly winked at smuggling before the opium traffic was legalized in 1858. Of course the reply to this is that England must clear her own skirts of complicity in an iniquity from which she reaps some forty million dollars a year before she can be heard in court as a professed defender of the Chinese people against the alleged perfidy of their own rulers. The best proof of the sincerity of the opposition to the opium traffic is found in the fact that the Government at Peking, furnished by the multitude of edicts launched against it during the last half century, and by the care it took to obtain from the United States, in the treaty recently concluded, a formal renunciation of the offensive traffic. As for the plea that China herself recognizes the legitimacy of the commerce by levying a large duty upon imported opium, that is easily disposed of. From the moment that Great Britain forced the admission of the drug into Chinese ports it became subject, like other staples, to the tariff, and the authorities were naturally impelled to impose a high duty, in order to limit as far as possible the circle of consumption.

All the empty protests are put forward to mask the essential selfishness of the motive to which the opium purveyors address their whole substantial argument, and on which they rely to secretly control the action of the British taxpayer. You cannot, they say, rule India without the forty million dollars accruing from the sale of opium; nor can the money derived from this traffic be made up in any other way from other Indian resources. If, therefore, you are inclined to indulge your philanthropy, take the trouble at least to count the cost. Look in the face the alternative of withdrawing from India altogether or of meeting from your own pockets the deficit created by the suppression of the opium trade. To this it might be answered that, if the people of India could be brought to the expense of the physical and moral well-being of the people of China, the expenditure would be abandoned. Naturally, the British denouncers of the opium trade prefer the other horn of the dilemma, and acknowledge that the country which insists on ruling India, yet recognizes the duty of sacrificing a large part of its revenues, should consent to pay for its philanthropy, as it did when slavery was abolished in the West Indian islands. The damages in that case, however, were assessed at no more than one hundred million dollars, whereas ten times that amount would, apparently, be requisite to make good the deficit in the Indian budget caused by the suppression of the opium trade. It is extremely doubtful, therefore, whether the British taxpayer to assume the vast additional burden which their just and humanitarian demands would tend to impose upon him.

## An Unworthy Public Prosecutor.

Mr. JOHN McKEON, the District Attorney of the county of New York, has an assistant who ought to be reprimanded by his superior officer, in the first place for his lack of sense, and in the second place for his inability to conceal his folly.

This assistant is Mr. JOHN O'BRYEN, formerly of Delaware, and a belated.

Mr. O'BRYEN is the gentleman who has just unsuccessfully prosecuted WILLIAM THAYER in the Court of General Sessions for the crime of murder. He is annoyed at the acquittal, and publicly declares "that if there cannot be a conviction in some of that kind of cases, it will be nearly time for a vigilante committee."

This is nice talk to come from a public prosecutor. An officer whose sworn duty it is to administer the law suggests resort to one of the most conspicuous and terrible forms of lawlessness.

And why? Merely because he has failed to convince a jury that they ought to convict a man whom he thought guilty. It does not seem to have occurred to him that the counsel for the prosecution may sometimes be responsible for a verdict of acquittal which would have been improper, and perhaps impossible, if the case had been differently tried.

At all events, a person who thinks that anything will justify the organization of a vigilante committee in this city, is not fit to hold the office of Assistant District Attorney for a single hour.

## Take Off the Tax.

Mr. WILLIS of Kentucky has introduced in the House of Representatives at Washington a bill authorizing the withdrawal from distillery warehouses, without tax, of alcohol and other spirits to be used in industrial pursuits. The bill provides that not less than three hundred gallons shall be withdrawn at a time, and that the necessary regulations shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury.

This is a very proper bill. It ought to be passed. There is no sense in levying an internal revenue tax upon any article which is but the raw material for the manufacture of other articles, or which is required for use in the manufacture of other articles.

We trust Mr. WILLIS's bill may become a law. But the enactment of this bill is not sufficient to satisfy the demands of common sense. All internal revenue taxes ought to be abolished.

The defeat of the proposed LA SALLE celebration junketing tour seems already to have been accepted as a precedent. The House Committee on Improving the Mississippi having decided not to go to the river to examine the causes of the late inundations. It might, indeed, be the duty of the House to send a committee of Congressmen roaming up and down the Mississippi valley on this quest. But the true reason for their remaining in Washington, doubtless, is a fear that their votes may be needed for sundry large appropriations.

The death of Gen. S. A. HUBERT, starting as it is, seems all the more so from its association with that of Gen. JAMES KIRKPATRICK. Only a few months ago these two Ministers were the centre of attention, by reason of their antagonism on the Chili-Peruvian dispute. Each has since died at his post. Gen. HUBERT with special suddenness. Still, there is obviously nothing more than coincidence in these two deaths. Possibly, it is true, the excitement connected with the diplomatic correspondence may have somewhat shortened the life of the Minister to Chili, and there may be still more ground for this supposition in the case of the Minister to Peru, as he succumbed to heart disease.

A season of sensations seems to have set in for the European diplomatic world, as the story of the *Memorial Diplomatique* that all the Continental sovereigns were to meet to talk over the pending European war, and to see to it that the peace of Europe was not disturbed by the intrigues of the Minister to Peru, as he succumbed to heart disease.

A body of Peruvian troops have won a signal victory. It was not over Chilean troops, however. The Peruvians were running away from those but coming upon a smaller body of Peruvians who were attacking them. They displayed their prowess by falling upon the latter, killing some 200 of them, and entering the town in triumph. Three Colonels of the defeated were then shot by order of Caceres, the victorious commander, who now claims to be the only Government of Peru.

## THE TARIFF.

The Attempt to Delay Its Revision a Device to Keep the Tariff Out of the Hands of the People's Representative.

WASHINGTON, April 2.—The Tariff Commission, at a cost of \$200 a day to the Treasury for the nine members who are to compose it, is plainly a device to preserve unchanged the existing system, by which a manufacturing class is exorbitantly protected at the cost of the whole community. It has been organized by a combination of wags that the skilled American workman is not better paid than the English workman, taking all the elements of living into account. Therefore, protection does not protect labor, but it gives enormous profits to those who employ that labor.

Mr. Hewitt is largely engaged in the iron trade, one of the protected industries. He has made a study of the whole revenue system through and through, with the impartiality of a philosophical statesman seeking after the truth, and striving to mature a wise and permanent policy on one side for the Government, and on the other side for the people, who have no voice in the tariff.

His ability and his experience on this subject entitle Mr. Hewitt's opinions to weight with the country. He introduced three simple resolutions, the first of which claims attention especially at this time, after the recent action of the Senate. Here it is:

Resolved, That the tariff Commission be reconstituted, by a committee of wags that the Ways and Means to report within thirty days, or at an earlier date if it is practicable, a bill based upon the following instructions:

Mr. Hewitt's methods are simple, and easily understood. First, to admit raw materials, chemicals, and alcohol for use in manufactures free. Second, to reduce the tariff on foreign goods, as far as practicable, upon the average dutiable value of imports during the last year. Third, to reduce the tariff on foreign goods, as far as practicable, upon the average dutiable value of imports during the last year.

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## FISHERMEN IN COUNCIL.

Interesting Statement by the Fish Cultivators of the Fish Cultivators.

A file of solid men made their way through the wholesale Fulton Fish Market yesterday to the room of the Fishmongers' Association. The members were members of the Fish Cultivators' Association, about to meet in their eleventh annual convention. Prominent in the line came Seth Green, the Lone Fisherman of Ironbound Bay; Col. McDonald of Virginia; James Annin, Jr., W. H. Butler, Charles H. Eavie, Seth Weeks, Fred Mather, George S. Page, A. A. Anderson, Barnet Phillips, E. G. Blackford, Hugh McDowell, and other philosophers, who can sit patiently all day while waiting for a bite.

In the absence of President R. B. Roosevelt, Vice-President G. S. Page presided. He congratulated members on the good already accomplished by the association. One great benefit was shown at this season in the increased number of shad, which had multiplied in the waters of the North and South through the propagation of shad in foreign waters. After Prof. Huxley and other men of science had spoken, the meeting adjourned.

The first paper read was from Mr. Hugh McDowell, of Brooklyn, on the growth and habits of the shad. He said that the shad was a fish of the sea, and that it was found in the waters of the North and South. He said that the shad was a fish of the sea, and that it was found in the waters of the North and South.

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